

Response to Office Action
Mailed August 6, 2003
Patent Application No.: 09/914,388

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his review of this patent application. In response, certain claims have been amended to overcome the claim objections regarding informalities. Also, Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. It is believed the amendment of Claim 9 puts Claims 9-12 in condition for allowance according to the finding of "Allowable Subject Matter" in these claims as set forth in the Office Action. Further, it is respectfully submitted the claims rejected as allegedly obvious (Claims 1-8) in the Office Action are in condition for allowance because they contain subject matter patentably distinct over the cited art as demonstrated below.

Claims 1 – 8 Are Patentably Distinct Over *Hanson* in view of *Logan et al.*

Claims 1 – 8 have been rejected as allegedly obvious over *Hanson*, United States Patent No. 5,922,045 in view of *Logan et al.*, United States Patent No. 6,199,076. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 6 are the independent claims of the rejected claims. Both independent claims refer to a "subscriber's communication". In particular, both claims refer to the "placement of a subscriber's communication" in a review of messages in a voice mail system. In both claims, "the subscriber's communication" leaves the review of messages. In Claim 1, "the subscriber's communication" is placed in its [previous] position in the review of messages. In Claim 6, "the subscriber's communication" is directed to return to the voice mail system. Thus, the same "subscriber's communication" that left the review of messages is placed in its previous position in the review of messages or directed to the voice mail system. In effect, the subscriber has only to make one call to be placed into his or her voice mail system, to reply to a voice mail message, and then to return to the voice mail system. The language of Claims 1 and 6 reflect this "one call does it all" functionality by use of the terms "the subscriber's communication".

An example may illustrate the key role of the "subscriber's communication" as used in the claims. A subscriber calls into his or her voice mail system. While reviewing messages, the subscriber decides to reply to one of the messages. The subscriber does

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not have to place a separate reply call. Rather, the subscriber's call into the voice mail system is used as part of the call path making the reply call. Once the reply call is finished, the subscriber may resume his or her view of voice mail messages on the SAME call that brought the subscriber initially into his or her voice mail system.

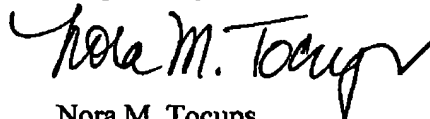
Neither *Hanson* nor Logan teach the "one call does it all" functionality as set out in Claims 1 and 6. Thus, *Hanson* and/or Logan (separately or in combination) at least with respect to the "one call does it all" functionally fail to teach or suggest the inventions of Claims 1 and 6. Claims 1 and 6 are allowable over the cited art.

The claims dependent on Claims 1 and 6 include or may include additional patentable subject matter. The distinctions of the dependent claims are not set forth herein because the patentability of the claims upon which the dependent claims depend has been demonstrated.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Nora M. Tocups at 404-372-1430 or ntocups@bellsouth.net.

Respectfully submitted,



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